

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

**March 15, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Ben Babin, Jack Harris, Felicia Lee, James Little, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBER ARRIVED AT 5:21 p.m.: Angela Machin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lionel Bailey

VACANT SEAT: East Feliciana Parish, St. Helena Parish

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.

2. Roll Call (see above).

3. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

5. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by St. Pierre to approve the February 2022 regular meeting minutes.

6. Financial Statements

Hoover presented to the Board the February 2022 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Little, second by Thompson to approve the February 2022 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

7. Executive Director Report

- Comite River Diversion Canal Project Report as follows:

- a. Comite River Diversion Canal. DOTD Report: Real Estate: 84 parcels acquired. All complete now. Utility Relocations are ongoing. LA 964 lets March 16, 2022. LA 67-bridge construction contract is executed. LA 19-bridge construction contract is in process of being executed.

- b. Rietschier and Bankston testified at the CRDC Taskforce Meeting on March 10, 2022. At the meeting, CRDC Project updates were provided by the USACE, DOTD, and Florida Gas. Note: Commissioner Machin entered the ARBC meeting at this time, 5:21 p.m.

- Other: The Board briefly discussed the status of HB 686. The Bill will be heard in the Natural Resources and Environment Committee. Note: Commissioner Harris exited the ARBC meeting at this time, 5:48 p.m.

- Amite and Comite River Maintenance. Rietschier presented the Board with a hand-out, and reminded the Board that this project would be considered a maintenance project, not a flood control project. East Baton Rouge Parish plans to do a drone flight of the Comite River within the parish. The drone flight is to assess conditions and determine if it would increase the risk of flooding downstream.

Rietschier recommended ARBC hiring CSRS to perform a drone flight video of the Comite River and its banks from La Highway 10 in East Feliciana Parish downstream to connect to the fly-over by EBR Parish. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin to hire CSRS for \$40,000 to perform a drone flyover to identify obstacles and to produce a flood impact study.

- Floodplain Management Plan: Rietschier presented a FPMP outline for the ARBC which includes a list of major flood control methods/requirements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to proceed with updating the ARBC Floodplain Management Plan.

8. ARBC Legal Counsel: None

9. Old Business: None

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10. New Business: Audit Engagement Letter: The Board unanimously approved a one-year engagement letter for \$8,000 with John McKowen for fiscal year ending 2022 on motion by St. Pierre, second by Hoover.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President  
Date: 4/19/22

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary